

CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, the apparatus comprising a supporting member (13) connectable to said top drive (3), an internal clamping tool (30) for engaging said tubular (7) and an external clamping device (39) for engaging said tubular (7) wherein said internal clamping tool (30) and said external clamping device (39) are moveable with respect to each other, characterised in that said internal clamping tool (30) comprises gripping elements (34) suitable for transferring a first torque to said tubular (7) and said external clamping device (39) comprises gripping elements (44) suitable for transferring a second torque to said tubular (7).
2. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said internal clamping tool (30) for engaging said tubular (7) comprises means for supporting the weight of said tubular (7).
3. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said internal clamping tool (30) is actuable by a fluid.
4. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said external clamping device (39) is actuable by a fluid.
5. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said fluid is pneumatic, hydraulic or is a combination of pneumatic and hydraulic.
6. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said internal clamping tool (30) comprises a sealing element (36) for sealing an annulus between said internal clamping tool (30) and said tubular (7) to facilitate circulation in said tubular.
7. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said internal clamping tool (30) further comprises a feed line (38) which extends from said sealing element (36) to an opening in said internal clamping tool (30) downstream of said sealing element

(36) wherein said sealing element (36) is arranged to be activated by pressure build up below said sealing element.

8. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said apparatus comprises a flexible membrane arranged between said internal clamping tool (30) and said external clamping device (39), said flexible membrane containing a fluid.

9. A method for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, the method comprising the steps of inserting and activating an internal clamping tool to engage a first tubular; rotating said tool and first tubular to threadedly engage said first tubular with a second tubular at a first torque, activating an external clamping device tighten said connection to a second torque.

10. An apparatus for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, the apparatus comprising a tool (30, 39) for gripping a tubular and at least one piston and cylinder (15) for raising and lowering said tool characterised in that in use, all the rotational force applied by said top drive is transferred to said tool (30, 39) through said at least one piston and cylinder (15).

11. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said apparatus comprises three piston and cylinders (15).